

Newsletter of the Bush Dance & Music Club of Bendigo Inc.

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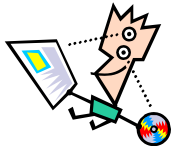


Coo-ee!

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Newsletter contribution deadline is Tuesday 6th May before the Friday Mail-out.



Next Bendigo East Hop – Note a week earlier owing to Easter - Sat. 12th April 8pm at Bendigo East Prog. Hall Lansell St.

Admission. Members \$5 Non-members \$8 and Children under 16 Free
A Plate of Supper to share is always appreciated and enjoyed.

Memberships Subscriptions are Now Due. Family \$30 and Single \$18



Next General Meeting 23rd April 7.30pm at Bendigo Neighbourhood House
21 Neale Street Kennington
Mary will send out an email to ask if people can come to the meeting so please answer yes or no either way.



Email. Please reply to Club emails there were 28 sent out and only 11 people replied.



Birthdays April

Michael Treacy 1st, John McQueen 12th, Gerald Kavanagh 17th, Kevin Long 19th, Carol Cox 19th, Julie Manypenny 23rd, Margaret Dean 25th. Phew, that's a big month, Congratulations to everybody.

Also from Tommy Dean – *“Thank you all for the cards and good wishes on the occasion of my 90th birthday on March 11th and also for the gift which will add to the enjoyment of many future “Happy Hours” ”.*



Wedding Anniversaries

Congratulations to Beverley & Alan Filbey, celebrating their 21st anniversary on April 3rd. That's got to be special too.



Reports from the March General Meeting.



1 We have two couples performing a short bracket of dances from the middle 19th C to 1914 era for the **Centenary of the Hustlers Mine Disaster** on May 4th at the Boundary Hotel. Any interested in viewing or partaking of the ‘Crib’ celebration (Cornish type Food) are welcome to attend, tickets available at the door should you wish to partake of the Cornish Miner’s Lunch. Full details of the weekend were on a flyer in the January newsletter

2 A contingency of Emu Creek Bush Band will be playing for a **dance** on Sun 15th June at the Timboon Hall Supper room from 11am till 4pm in aid of **Leukaemia Foundation** (George Hautot is the organiser). Any from our club that might be interested would be welcome to attend.

3 March Dance The floor started off too fast but improved and thanks to Don for fixing it as it was terrible at the Feb. dance. It was a small crowd but good participation and a few new people. It was a good programme and good MC thanks to Dianne. Unfortunately many left after supper and the First Set had to be deleted, there were not enough. This is becoming a problem for us with sets and progressives after supper, yet they can’t be bundled together in the early part. The club was pleased to be able to present Tommy Dean with happy hour treats on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

4 Illustrations or pictures for the monthly dance flyer. Could everyone look for a suitable picture for a flyer and bring to the next dance or meeting please? Editor’s note, I’ve asked Carolyn Marrone to draw up some simpler illustrations which she’ll organise after Easter.

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TSDAV functions coming up: - The **TSDAV** conducts a series of monthly dance workshops, under the name of - **“Dancing at the 11th Hour”** and continues for this year. Dates are the **1st Sunday of the Month:** - the next being **4th May** at the Eleventh Hour Theatre Hall cnr Gore & Leicester Sts Fitzroy 2.00-5.00 pm. Enquiries Norm Ellis 9888 5332 or <http://tsdav.vicnet.net.au/>

Retirement Village Dance Displays

Strathhaven Wednesday May 7th 2pm, **Sunrise**, Condon Street. Wednesday July 2nd 1.30 pm.
St. Laurence Ct Kang/flat August 13th 1.30pm and November 14th 1.30pm.

The dancers once again excelled themselves in their entertainment recently at Victoria Heights. Pride of Erin, Maxina, Alberts, Varsoviana, Charmaine, Dashing White Sergeant and Swing Waltz were some of the dances performed. Also Don and Julie put on several items with tunes such as Marching thro' Georgia, Roll 'Em Girls, Maggie and Peter also a couple of items, but can't remember what. The residents are always so appreciative and the staff often amazed at the repertoire and performance, particularly when we have a nonagenarian leading the charge.

If interested contact Margaret Dean or Julie Manypenny for details as we can really use your support.

V.F.M.C. Woolshed Ball with the Celebrated Emu Creek Bush Band Saturday 24th May 2014
St. David's Uniting Church Cnr. Mont Albert and Burke Rds. Canterbury 8 – 12.30 am

Programme:- **1** Circular Waltz x 1, Parma Waltz x 2. **2** Circassian Circle. **3** Grand March & Alberts. **4** Progressive Barn Dance. **5** Thady You Gander. **6** Swing Waltz. **7** Chain Double Quadrille. **8** Willow Tree. **9** Varsoviana x 1, Pride of Erin x 2. **10** Lancers. *Supper* **11** Charmaine x 3. **12** Sir Roger de Coverley with Serpentine fig. x 7. **13** Tempest. **14** Veleta W x2, St Bernard W x 2. **15** Posties Jig. **16** Waltz Cotillion (Colonial). **17** Highland Reel. **18** La Galopede. **19** Maxina x 2 **20**. Soldier's Joy x 8. **21** Circle Waltz x 10. Auld Lang Syne

Wedderburn Oldtimers Concerts for Probus Groups – Wedderburn Motel,

These are held occasionally, usually a week night from 7pm to 9pm for visiting Probus groups, often from Melbourne, but sometimes as far afield as Wagga Wagga or Nhill. As with above, they are always so appreciative of the entertainment. One gentleman said to me last Wednesday night, this is one of the best evenings I've ever been to.

We miss Campbell as he is confined to barracks at the Inglewood Hospital, but interacting really well with all his friends and visitors. I would think if any from Bendigo would like to visit Campbell, or attend any of the Oldtimers Concerts they would be welcome. We attempt to put on some dances as well, it depends on the audience. There are no imminent dates at present, I'll keep you informed, and you would have to book for a meal at the motel a day or two in advance. Details will be posted when next a concert is arranged.

Here's a little contribution from Mary, apologies for the *colourful expressions*, Editor.

Being Green! Checking out at the supermarket, the young cashier suggested to the much older woman, that she should bring her own grocery bags because Plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologised and explained, "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days." The young cashier responded, "That's our problem today - your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right -- our generation didn't have the 'green thing' in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, lemonade bottles and beer bottles to the shop. The shop sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilised and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Grocery shops bagged our groceries in brown paper bags, that we re-used for numerous things, most memorable besides household bags for rubbish, was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our schoolbooks. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school), was not defaced by our scribbling. Then we were able to personalise our books on the brown paper bags.

But too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have a lift in every supermarket, shop and office building. We walked to the local shop and didn't climb into a 300 horsepower machine every time we had to go half a mile.

But she was right. We didn't have the "green thing" in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's Terry Towel nappies because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 3 kilowatts wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids had hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that young lady is right; we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Back then, we had one radio or TV in the house - not a TV in every room and the TV had a small screen the size of a big handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of Scotland in the kitchen. We blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn petrol just to cut the lawn. We pushed the mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

We drank from a tap or fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

Back then, people took the bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their Mums into a 24-hour taxi service in the family's £50,000 'People Carrier' which cost the same as a whole house did before the "green thing." We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances and we didn't need a computerised gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest Pub!

But isn't it sad that the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then?

Please forward this on to another selfish old person who needs a lesson in conservation from a smart arse young person...

We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to piss us off especially from a tattooed, multiple pierced smartarse who can't work out the change without the cash register telling them how much it is!

Here endeth the bloody lesson!

Editor's note. Of course it was really our parents' and grandparents' generation who managed things when we were young and we fondly grew up with all of above mentioned. The young of course could argue we've allowed it to happen, but there does also seem to be an attitude with their generation which we would never have been allowed to get away with. I'm going to continue this with 'old recollections' next edition.

Food for Thought! Continued.

You may recall my mentioning in the last newsletter about a New Zealand brand of "Mainland" softest butter – "Butter Soft" and that the only additive is water and salt and it is triple churned to make it spreadable. Well I've since found there's also a low salt choice of this brand which is of course highly recommended. Also Harry Gardner has since been to his dietician – *"I spent an expensive hour with a dietician yesterday, and the good news is the high fat diet is confirmed from the point of view of my irritable bowel syndrome, provided that certain fructans (fructose forming foods) and 'polyols' (alcohols – sorbitol etc) are avoided. However the dietician has called for a coeliac test in addition to the four tests that I've already had. The mechanism envisaged for the polyols is that, whereas in normal people they are totally absorbed in the small intestine, with others including many old people they pass into the large intestine where the flora produce flatulence. However the dietician understood that cholesterol could rise and so that is my choice. Wonderfully dry-ish wine is permitted, but sadly it's limited to two standard drinks preferably of dryish wine. (I celebrated last night with somewhat more of Durif and Shiraz. – Harry"*

Editor - At my recent visit to my doctor I got into the 'oils ain't oils' discussion and the evils of using canola. He asked me what I cooked with; I replied a little Butter or Olive oil for lower heat. He said 'use Lard, it's got the highest smoke point!' I rest my case.

Vale Betty Martin. Sadly Betty passed away at age 84 as a result of a car accident. Betty (wife



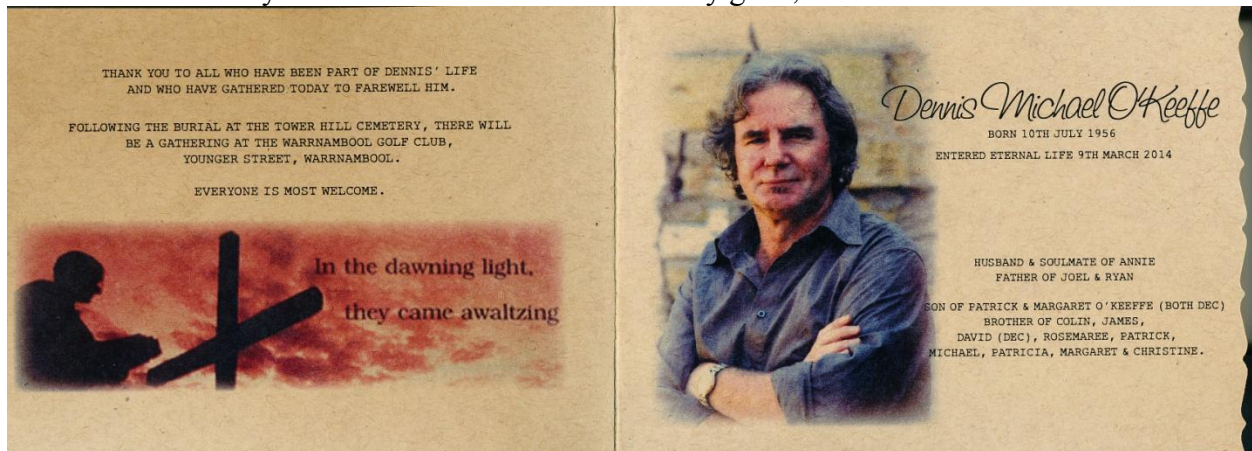
of the late Alan Martin) was a member of our club for many years and also was a Treasurer. There's some footage of her at the International Folk Night at our dance at Spring Gully all those years ago, dressed in a 'genie costume'. Betty was a good scout with a sunny attitude to everything. I remember one memorable occasion at Colac Colac (Nariel Folk Festival) playing five hundred with Betty and Bert Gibson, it was a real hoot and a treat to see who could outdo who. I'll miss Betty and her smiling face, I last saw her recently on two

occasions while entertaining the Strathdale Probus Club, Betty was a member. Betty loved her dancing which she swapped for bowls, loved travelling overseas, and camping in her camp trailer all around Australia. But most of all she loved a good chat and catching up with people whenever she could. She made friends everywhere she went and wrote a diary for all her trips commenting on the price of petrol and food etc. Peter & Mary.

Vale Dennis O'Keefe

Dennis passed away recently after a long battle with cancer, age only 58. Whilst many of you may not know of Dennis he was the brains and MC behind the long running (13 years) and extremely popular 'Brucknell Folk Gathering'. He was passionate about the working class and writing songs about the hard doers as well as recently publishing a history on the real story behind Waltzing Matilda. One song of note was his composition of 'The Sinking of the Rodney' set to the tune of After the Ball including the full verse. The story is set at the time of the shearers' strikes in the 1890s when a squatter organised a crew of 'scabs' to come up the Darling River on the paddle ship Rodney to break the streak. Henry Lawson is reputed to have been present. The story goes that the shearers discovered the Rodney moored by the river bank at night and set it alight and that one of them played After the Ball on a concertina as it went down.

I often played this on concertina for Dennis when he performed the song at various festivals. He will be particularly remembered for his leading the Australian song sessions every morning in the bar at the National Folk Festival. He is survived by his family in Warrnambool, wife Annie and sons Joel and Ryan. One of Australia's iconic sadly gone, far too soon.



Vale Fay McLinden. It is with a sadness that we have learnt of Fay's death after a long battle with cancer. Most in our dance club wouldn't know of Fay now. She was a foundation member of TSDAV along with Shirley Andrews, Bruce McClure and Penny Lane and very active in teaching Irish dancing in our early years and first TSDAV function with us at Bendigo in the November following the inaugural function at Geelong. Over the years she continued her dance classes in Western Victoria. Mary and I remember Fay and husband Morgan fondly. Real good scouts.

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Fascinating Letter from Harry McQueen, full of history you'd never find.

I had been trying to provide information on the Happy Jack Hall attached to the Happy Jack Pub at Lockwood South for Doug Pearse in connection with a Back To booklet that was being prepared. Harry played with Bill McGlashan for the last two dances in this venue in 1926. This would have been invaluable information for the recent booklet as so often historians do not

provide accounts of the dancing history of their district that was as vital as a community activity in those early days. Unfortunately I didn't discover this letter till the last couple of weeks, after the Back To and release of the local history. But here it is for you interest. I'll have to include my own comments and explanation on the questions and answers next edition.

10 Hunter St Castlemaine 3450 12/5/1979 Dear Peter,



Firstly, Congratulations on your paper, you certainly have gone into the job in a big way. I tried to contact you by phone but I believe you have moved. You may recall that I often referred to dances at Lockwood, Ravenswood etc; they are the places where I really began to take an interest in the accordeon. I notice that you quote me on different points etc in your summary, I make no claim to be an authority on old time dances nor for that matter to be a musician, just a player of the accordeon and the statements I have made are of what I actually saw and can recall.

I will try and answer some of your queries in this letter but sometime you may care to come down and I could give you more details.

Prince Imperials and Sir Roger de Coverley. I attended what I think were the last 2 dances in the Happy Jack Hall at Lockwood South with Mr. Bill McGlashan, accordeon player from Woodbrook to Marong, Cherry Tree Hotel (Big Hill) through Crusoe to Porcupine Flat (near Maldon) and Shelbourne, he was then the best in the district. He played for those sets those 2 nights and later on I learned tunes that he played for them and I still often play some of them at dances. I was able to play for some 20 years with Bill McGlashan and am now in my 54th year. I found it puzzling that I should be the only one to recall those sets, so after your letter I started to do some enquiring myself.

Mr McGlashan's eldest daughter, Mrs R Sharp lives in Castlemaine, I rang her first, yes, and she remembered the Happy Jack but was never able to get there, in those times her father who was employed in "The Run" (Ravenswood Estate) rode to most dances on horseback together with other men on the estate.

She then referred me to a number of other people, George Sutcliffe came from Shelbourne, he recalled the Lockwood dances but left in 1921, the hotel was then open, when he returned in 1930 the whole place, hotel and hall was closed and in bad shape, he could not recall any specific dances.

The next was a Mr Genders who until just a few years ago lived at Lockwood, he thinks the hotel closed about 1923-4 but dances were held for some time after that date, no recollection of any dance as every night was the same more or less.

Then I got another clue, the MC at the dance was Mr. Wally Seckold (after the hall closed I played in the old Lockwood South School under Wally in the 1940s) he has died since but he has a sister a Mrs Bertha Carter in the home for the aged in Bendigo, he has a son W.A. Seckold living at No 5 Baslar Crescent, Kangaroo Flat. I think he may be on the phone but I am told he would take you to see the old lady. One problem, Mrs Sharp is not too sure of her mental condition.

Then something that I should have remembered earlier. Mrs Nell Adams (nee McGlashan) lived for a number of years at Thistle St in Bendigo, I knew her very well and often used to call and see her. About 6

months ago I called and found that she had moved to Deniliquin to be near her daughter Mrs Grace Fitzmaurice, St Michael St. Deniliquin. In my book she would be the best bet of any, she would be well over 80 years old and has a wonderful memory.

Castlemaine decided to form a Pipe Band in the 1930-40s and to raise funds dances were held at Ottrey's Barn at Muckleford, music accordeon, pipers, and when they could get one a piano. A Mr Jack Collins (later a blacksmith at Sovereign Hill Ballarat) taught Scotch Dancing and he came one or two nights and put on the Sir Roger de Coverley for the last time I saw it. The music he asked for was different to what I had learned at Lockwood but after a few hints I got his time and one tune in particular, Barley in the Whiskey, was played on T.V. in the picture Against the Wind. The different method of swing I could only do by demonstration.

Your first enquiry Parisians or Pyrenees. In my time this dance was held at the South and North Ravenswood Schools. M.C. Mr Peter Comini (now deceased). To us in the hall his call sounded as though 'Pyrenees' but he may have called Parisians. Some of his relatives still live in Ravenswood, they may know something.

Third query, I take it to be the Grand Old Duke of York. I see you quote June Hammer (Nee Pinder). Pinder's Orchestra of Bendigo I presume, has she forgotten? I have never seen this "dance" at a usual old time night but at one time it was always put on at school, breakups, Church socials, 21st Birthdays, tin kettlings etc. I remember it well.

Fourth query, the only dances that I can think of that are not done locally are the Plain Schottische and Military Four Step also Military Two Step.

Your final query, Setting to Partners. If you contact Mr. Wally Tugwell C/o Inman Valley P.O. South Australia he would give you his version. He runs an old time dance, I have played there, and in his calls he uses "Set to Partners" call.

You mention Shirley Andrews, some years ago I took her to see Mr W. McGlashan and a Mr Cling Gervasoni of Yandoit, she took notes from both them but I am unaware as to whether these interviews were of any value to her.

I will return your other papers later, about the only point I disagree with is the hold in the Circular Waltz. I always understood that the gent extended his left arm slightly bent at the elbow and the lady just rests the palm of her right hand on the open palm of the gent, no fingers closed, no grip etc.

I understood that this was to counteract one partner giving assistance or helping to support the other partner.

Do you recall the "dance" that used to be put on at social gatherings etc. "Push the Business On"?

Peter, this may seem a long ramble of writings etc. but I hope it may be of some assistance to you, anything other than what I have written would have to be done verbally. By the way, these comments are not for publication as written only meant to be of use to you in your work,

Regards to all,

Yours truly Harry McQueen